

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W

-----028133 011237Z /53

R 010915Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8386

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1116

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PDEV VM LA CB PBOR TH

SUBJECT: KAMPUCHEAN/LPDR RELATIONS

REF: A VIENTIANE 1108, B BANGKOK 16536, C VIENTIANE 1087

1. AMBASSADOR SAMSAN, WHO ARRIVED IN VIENTIANE IN JUNE, HAS MAINTAINED KAMPUCHE' S FOREIGN POLICY LINE OF INDEPENDENCE FROM OTHER INDOCHINESE COMMUNIST STATES. DURING PHAM VAN DONG AND LE DUAN'S VISIT TO LPDR SAMSAN ATTENDED DINNER HOSTED BY LPDR JULY 15 BUT DID NOT ATTEND RECIPROCAL VIETNAMESE HOSTED DINNER JULY 17. HE DID NOT ATTEND JOINT THAI/LAO/VIETNAMESE MEKONG COMMITTEE MEETINGS, REF A.

2. OTHER KAMPUCHEAN DIPLOMATS ALSO EXPRESSED UNWILLINGNESS TO ALING CLOSELY WITH SRV. ACCORDING TO BRITISH DIPLOMAT IN VIENTIANE, KAMPUCHEAN AMBASSADOR
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TO SRV WHEN ASKED BY INDIAN AMBASSADOR IF KA KAMPUCHEA DESIRED "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH SRV LIKE THAT OF LPDR, SAID "IF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP MEANS 30,000 TROOPS OCCUPYING ONE'S COUNTRY, NO THANK YOU."

3. THAI PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAIWICHIAN HINTED THAT LAO/KAMPUCHEAN RELATIONS WERE BAD WHEN HE TOLD DEPUTY

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER JULY 25 THAT VIETNAM AND LAOS BOTH HAD WORSE BORDER PROBLEMS WITH KAMPUCHEA THAN DID THE THAI, REF KB. RELIABLE SOURCE WHO CAME TO VIENTIANE FROM ATTOPEU MARCH 1977 SAID THAT ATTOPEU PROVINCIAL LEADERS STILL TALKED ABOUT ANNEXING NORTHEASTERMOST REGION OF KAMPUCHEA TO LPDR BECAUSE OF AN HISTORICAL LAO CLAIM TO THAT TERRITORY. SAME SOURCE KENW OF NO ACTIONS TAKEN BY LAO ON THE BASIS OF THIS CLAIM.

4. ALTHOUGH LPDR MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH VISITED KAMPUCHEA IN DECEMBER 1975 HIS KAMPUCHEAN COUNTERPART IENG SARY HAS NOT RETURNED THE VISIT TO LPDR. (THERE WERE RUMORS IENG SARY VISITED SAM NEUA IN OCTOBER 1975.) REF C REPORTED LPDR HAD INVITED A HIGH RANKING KAMPUCHEAN DELEGATION TO COME TO LAOS BUT THAT THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE AS OF JULY 25.

5. KAMPUCHEAN INVITATION TO LAO AVIATION DELEGATION TO VISIT PHNOM PENH IN JUNE AND SUBSEQUENT ESTABLISHMENT OF MONTHLY LAO AVIATION AIR ROUTE BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND PHNOM PENH WAS A RECENT SIGN OF POLITE LPDR/KAMPUCHEAN RELATIONS. ANOTHER POSITIVE SIGN WAS KAMPUCHEAN REPLACEMENT OF ILL AMBASSADOR MEAK TOUCH BY SAMSAN IN JUNE. (TOUCH HAD BEEN ABSENT FROM POST FOR OVER FOUR MONTHS.)
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6. COMMENT: DESPITE DIFFICULT KAMPUCHEAN/SRV RELATIONS AND THAI HINTS OF LAO/KAMPUCHEAN BORDER PROBLEMS, FORMAL LAO/KAMPUCHEAN RELATIONS SEEM TO BE CORRECT.
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